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**TELEGRAM****INFORMATION REPORT****TELEGRAM**

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY WEST GERMANY

REPORT NO. TDCS

SUBJECT ERHARD'S REACTION TO THE TARIFF DEVELOPMENTS ABOUT THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DATE DISTR.

PRECEDENCE

DATE OF INFO. 23 MARCH 1960

CLASSIFICATION

IN 19176

PLACE &amp; DATE ACQ. GERMANY, FRANKFURT (25 MARCH 1960)

APPRAISAL 2

REPORT NO. EGF-4908

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE HIGH-LEVEL GERMAN OFFICIAL WHO IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF ERHARD'S (F).

1. ECONOMICS MINISTER LUDWIG ERHARD REGARDS AS A DIRECT PERSONAL AFFRONT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY CHANCELLOR KONRAD ADENAUER AND PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER ON 15 MARCH IN SUPPORT OF ACCELERATING THE TARIFF ARRANGEMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC). ERHARD IS ANNOYED AND PERPLEXED SINCE HE REGARDS HIMSELF AS THE ONLY TRUE FRIEND OF THE U.S. ON THE CABINET LEVEL OF THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT. HE BELIEVES THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BONN HAS FAILED TO APPRECIATE CORRECTLY THE CONSEQUENCES OF ACCELERATING THE EEC TARIFF ARRANGEMENTS AND HAS MISINTERPRETED THE SITUATION IN ITS REPORTS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

2. ERHARD REGARDS THE STATEMENTS ISSUED IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNIQUE AFTER THE MEETING OF THE WEST GERMAN CABINET ON 23 MARCH AS NOT BINDING, BECAUSE ADENAUER, ERHARD, AND FOREIGN MINISTER HEINRICH VON BREITENBURG WERE ABSENT. ERHARD IS NEVERTHELESS WORRIED

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE WEEK OF 27 MARCH IN VIEW OF HIS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO THE TARIFF ACCELERATION. (FIELD COMMENT: ACCORDING TO ANOTHER SOURCE, THE FEDERAL PRESS OFFICE HAS RECEIVED CABLES FROM FELIX VON ERHARDT, CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL PRESS OFFICE FROM SAN FRANCISCO, HONOLULU, AND TOKYO INSTRUCTING THE PRESS OFFICE TO GET THE GERMANY PRESS AS MUCH PUBLICITY AS POSSIBLE FAVORABLE TO ACCELERATING THE EEC TARIFF ARRANGEMENTS.) LUDGER WESTRICK, STATE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY, WILL REPRESENT ERHARD AT THIS CABINET MEETING. (SOURCE COMMENT: SOURCE INCLINES TO DOUBT THAT ERHARD WILL BE FORCED TO RESIGN OR WILL CHOOSE TO RESIGN OVER THIS ISSUE. ERHARD HAS COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM HIS ILLNESS AND WILL RETURN TO WORK ON 3 APRIL.)

3. FIELD DISSEM: STATE

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